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the importance of the material treated, which, though obviously of value primarily for the history of that part of the United States formerly comprised in Spanish Louisiana and the Floridas, reaches out far beyond these narrow provincial limits; it is invaluable for instance to the student of Spanish-American colonial administration, commerce, Indian policy, and foreign relations, as well as the territorial development of the United States. The period covered is approximately from 1775 through 1821, though a few documents fall on either side of these dates.

The reputation for uniform excellence of the editorial work of the department of historical research is so widespread that comment upon the good qualities of Mr. Hill's work in this respect seems superfluous. The index is conveniently full and well arranged; it has surprisingly few typographical errors, inconsistencies, or deficiencies in the matter of cross references.

In the very nature of things, an absolutely satisfactory calendar or catalog or index is an impossibility; it is easy to pick flaws in the best. Yet whoever has tried to carry such a task to completion realizes too feelingly the difficulties involved, especially in dealing with a large mass of Spanish papers, to let minor shortcomings interfere with his appreciation of whatever it possesses of usefulness, or with his gratitude to the compiler for the spirit of unselfish service which impelled him to submit to the drudgery inseparable from its successful achievement. He who has passed beyond the youthful stage wherein he feels sorrow that not he, but another, has been the successful doer of a large task will feel personal comfort in the realization that he will not have Mr. Hill's work to do over; he who is impersonally interested in the progress of historical scholarship will feel an impersonal gratitude to the compiler and the institution whose joint efforts have made possible this step forward in historical study.

ELIZABETH HOWARD WEST

The former Philippines thru foreign eyes. Edited by Austin Craig. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1917. 552 p. \$3.00)

This book, dated "University of the Philippines, Manila, March 11th, 1916," was first published in Manila in 1916, especially if not exclusively for the use of the public schools. The American edition is evidently printed from the same plates as the Manila edition, or duplicates, but with its better paper and binding and its more artistic title-page, it presents a much more pleasing appearance than the latter. An innovation, not often seen in modern books, is the location of the index (not so full as is desirable) immediately after the table of contents, which in a sense destroys the logical make-up of a book, although it is as correct

as the common practice in American and English books of placing the table of contents before the text. The first of the eight items of this interesting compilation (three of which are translations) is the most important. This is a new translation of Feodor Jagor's *Reisen in den Philippinen* (Berlin, 1873), made especially for Mr. Craig by a young German who was sent to Manila by the Japanese after the taking of Tsing Tau; it was made by correcting from the original text the faulty English translation published in London in 1875. The rough woodcut sketches of the German edition, two short discussions on religion and the social evil, and all the appendices have been omitted. Jagor's book is one of the most valuable contributions on the Philippines during the nineteenth century, and Mr. Craig is to be congratulated on at last giving it an adequate English dress. It is especially valuable for its lucid exposition of the social and economic factors that ruled Philippine life during the second half of the nineteenth century. Here occurs the remarkable prophecy so filled with meaning to Americans: "In proportion as the navigation of the west coast of America extends the influence of the American element over the South Sea, the captivating, magic power which the great republic exercises over the Spanish colonies will not fail to make itself felt also in the Philippines. The Americans are evidently destined to bring to a full development the germs originated by the Spaniards. . . A considerable portion of Spanish-America already belongs to the United States, and has since attained an importance which could not possibly have been anticipated either under the Spanish government or during the anarchy which followed. With regard to permanence, the Spanish system cannot for a moment be compared with that of America."

The other items in the book are as follows: a modernized version of Walton's *State of the Philippine islands* (London, 1821), itself a translation of the work of the Spanish liberal, Tomás Comyn, *Estado de las Islas Filipinas* (Madrid, 1820), a most valuable account of economic and social conditions in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the quality of which is attested by the fact that it met with the disfavor of Spanish officialdom; an excerpt from Commodore Wilkes, *Narrative of the United States exploring expedition* (Philadelphia, 1844), giving a description of "Manila and Sulu in 1842;" an excerpt from the *History of a voyage to the South Sea* (Boston, 1823), by an American naval officer, John White, comprising a description of "Manila in 1819;" O. T. Mason's translation of Rudolf Virchow's *Die Bevölkerung der Philippinen* (Berlin, 1899), which appeared in the Smithsonian report for 1899, and which replaces Virchow's "Ueber alte und neue Schädel von den Philippinen," published as an appendix in Jagor; and three short

excerpts from accounts by English merchants of 1778 and about 1890, respectively, and the English consul in the Philippines in 1878. More complete bibliographical details would have enhanced the value of the book for historical students, and Mr. Craig might profitably have annotated a trifle more widely. The items were all chosen because they show the more pleasing elements of Philippine life and character, and the book as a whole is an attempt to do justice to the Filipino by setting the comments of foreigners against those of many Spaniards, who have furnished in general the criterion by which the Philippines and their peoples have been judged.

JAMES A. ROBERTSON

Middle group of American historians. By John Spencer Bassett, Ph.D., LL.D. (New York: Macmillan company, 1917. 324 p. \$2.00 net)

In his admirable sketch of early history writing and history writers in this country, Mr. Bassett has been fortunate in striking upon a style of presentation at once lucid and attractive. This is especially noticeable in the first and last chapters where the subject matter has no intrinsic interest to the average reader. In this part of the work the author has been successful in bringing into juxtaposition a considerable number of scattered fragments and using them effectively in his discussion. In this he recalls that extremely interesting work on American literature by Moses Coit Tyler. Mr. Bassett shows the same ability to run through a rather dry category of names and, by felicitous reference and discriminating phrase, to keep up the interest of the reader.

In his handling of the work of Sparks, Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, and Force, the author has been able to give us some new impressions of the period in which these historians worked and he has also left us with a distinct impression of each writer. There is none of that laudatory sameness so often encountered in ordinary biographies which blurs down the distinctive character of a man. We are left in no doubt as to the quality of scholarship and the sharp individualism that separates Sparks from Bancroft and both of them from Force. The author has sketched with considerable skill, also, the literary careers of these men, not omitting the various publishing ventures, both profitable and otherwise, on which they embarked. Altogether the volume has a personal touch and glimpses into the intimate life of these historians hardly to be anticipated from its title. It is to be hoped that this work will not be the last of the series and that the author will pursue his studies into the later field of history writing in this country.